

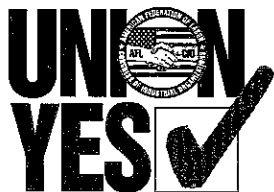
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## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO House Bill 2299 BEFORE HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

**By Bruce Tunnell**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Kansas AFL-CIO**

**February 18, 2015**

Thank you Chairman Hutton and members of the committee I appreciate this opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2299.

Kansas AFL-CIO is strongly opposed to the State of Kansas assuming the responsibility for safety and health under the OSHA act. Our experience has been that the federal government does a much better job at enforcing the job safety law and ensuring protection of worker rights.

The KDOL gave their report dated January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 in accordance with Section 1 of Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 2616, regarding what will be required in order for Kansas to develop and operate a Kansas job safety and health program "State plan," which would be subject to approval and monitoring by OSHA, in accordance with section 18 of the Occupational safety and health Act of 1970.

The KDOL estimated a start-up cost of \$3,209,312 and an annual cost of \$2,888,812 which we believe is extremely conservative. A Kansas State run plan cannot be approved and enforcement authority transferred to the State, for a minimum of 3 years after submission and approval of the completed plan. Only after a State plan has been approved by the Assistant Secretary, the Assistant Secretary may approve one or more grants under section 23 (g) of the ACT to assist the State in administering and enforcing its program for occupational safety and health in accordance with appropriate instructions or procedures to be promulgated by the Assistant Secretary.



The Kansas AFL-CIO opposes HB 2299 for many reasons. The cost to our State at a time when budget cuts are the norm rather than the exception and the State is taking record amounts of money from the KDOT and our schools to balance the budget should be reason enough for this committee to oppose HB 2299.

Thank you for your time and consideration.